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SHERWOOD ENTERPRISES, INC.

2215 Hayne Street
Charleston, SC 29406
553-1900

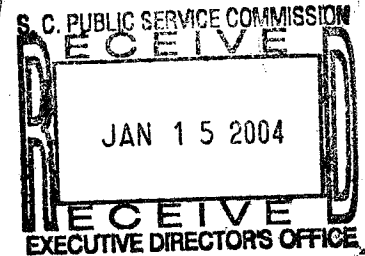
Sherwood Mobile Home Park

Memminger Hall Apartments

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Before
the Public Service Commission of
South Carolina
Docket no. 2003-276 w/s

Prefiled testimony of Robert W. Ashby
on behalf of Sherwood Utilities Company



Q. Please state your name and business address.

A. My name is Robert W. Ashby. My business address is 2215 Hayne St., Charleston, S.C. 29406.

Q. Where are you employed and in what capacity?

A. I am employed as the president of the applicant.

Q. What is your educational background, your training and work experience?

A. I am a 1959 graduate of The Citadel with a B.S. degree and an M.B.A. from the University of Florida. I was employed by Ring, Mahoney & Arner, C.P.A.s in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Following that I became President of Everglades Investment Co., Inc. and Loxahatchee, Inc. After moving back to South Carolina I became president of Sherwood Enterprises, Inc. and Dale Valley, Inc. Both companies operate mobile home parks. In 1993 I formed Sherwood Utilities Company and have operated that company to date.

Q. What are your job responsibilities in your current position?

A. My responsibilities include the day to day management of the company, which consist of metering the water usage, billing, recording and accounting for the company. There are no duties in regard to water or wastewater treatment in that we buy from Charleston Public Works and North Charleston Sewer District. Our function is to pass on the service to our tenants.

Q. What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?

A. The purpose of my testimony is to provide the Commission my reasons for requesting a rate increase, and to show the Commission that we have suffered losses every year since 1993.

Q. What is the authorized service area of Sherwood Utilities Company?

A. The authorized service area of the company consists of Sherwood and Dale Valley Mobile Home Parks located in Charleston County.

Q. When was a general rate increase last requested by the company?

A. The Company has never requested a rate increase even though Charleston Public Works and the North Charleston Sewer District have increased our rates many times.

Q. What has the company's experience been with the costs of operations since its first and only rate setting?

A. Over the last ten years our expenses have increased across the board as all companies have. Our labor costs, taxes, license fees, printing postage, insurance, etc. have all increased and in addition the water and sewer rates that we pay out have increased many times since our inception resulting in a ten (10) year loss of \$170,540.39. (Schedule attached).

Q. What is the proposed rate increase designed to accomplish for the company?

A. The proposed rate increase is designed to generate additional revenue that will allow the company to be on a sound financial footing and recoup some of the prior losses.

Q. Are the rates and charges proposed fair, reasonable, and necessary in order for the company to continue to provide water and sewer service?

A. Yes. The financial statements show that we are operating at a loss. In order to continue to provide this service we definitely need this rate increase.

Q. Does this conclude your testimony?

A. Yes, it does.

SCHEDULE OF LOSSES
Sherwood Utilities Co.
for the years 1993 through 2002

	<u>NET Losses</u>
1993	\$ 8,901.08
1994	10,637.48
1995	10,061.49
1996	9423.90
1997	11,883.57
1998	18,219.41
1999	22,396.88
2000	25,925.06
2001	24,719.59
2002	<u>28,371.93</u>
Total Loss for period	\$170,540.39